

Mental Ability - 1932

NEW YORK TIMES

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## TEMPEST STIRRED IN VIRGINIA TEAPOT

Englishwoman Said "Natives  
Had No Mentality and Trouble  
Followed Quickly.

SHE EXPLAINED REMARK

But Controversy Still Rages and  
Visitor From the North Adds  
to the Unrest.

By VIRGINIUS DABNEY.

Editorial Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES

RICHMOND, April 14.—A lively and at times acrimonious controversy has arisen over a remark made by an Englishwoman in an address to a literary club near London, and by a person of culture and refinement. There are more ways than one of looking at this matter. For factors cannot be controlled, they are my part I should hate to publish not to be disregarded any more than the fact that I had been for a long time in any corner of the United States and that I had never met anybody to control it.

Mrs. Edith Leeson Everett, a portrait painter who was born in England and who married a Virginian and lived in Richmond for two decades, spoke on Virginia recently before the Twickenham Literary Society. The Thames Valley Times quoted her as saying that in the Old Dominion "the natives have no mentality." Somebody sent a copy of the paper to The Richmond News-Leader, and that journal published an account of Mrs. Everett's remarks with unfavorable editorial comment.

When friends of Mrs. Everett advised her of this, she cabled at once that she had not referred to the white population of Virginia but merely to the Negroes. She explained that she had used the word "natives" as it is used in England, where the custom of describing all dark-skinned races as "natives" is widespread, owing to the almost universal use of the term in the colonies from all over the State and ended by offering apologies.

But although The News-Leader promptly apologized to Mrs. Everett and there is a considerable disposition to accept her explanation, a fairly large number of white citizens appear to feel, despite her disclaimer, that she had Virginians of Caucasian descent in mind. Others take the view that even if her explanation is correct, her statement was a gratuitous insult to the Negro, and one Negro wrote to a Richmond paper saying:

"Whatever may have prompted her address, whatever may have inspired

her motives, however deeply numinated native Virginians may feel, it is perfectly clear to any sane mind that Mrs. Everett's utterances, however disrespectful, insulting and contemptuous, were directed at the white people of Richmond and Virginia and not at the Negroes."

Northerner Adds Fuel to Fire.

A veritable rash of letters to the editor has broken out during the past week, and one from a Northerner, sojourning in Richmond, started a brand-new controversy by finding fault with Mrs. Everett for not saying that the majority of Southerners have no mentality.

"It is surely refreshing to visit friends up North or have them come down here," this correspondent declared in a communication to The Richmond Times-Dispatch. "The opinion held in his early investigation can hear decent English and associate with people who aren't ignorant. As for 'Southern hospitality' and 'Southern gentlemen,' they must have gone north. I haven't met either since I have been down here."

This letter writer has been strongly advised by other correspondents to go back where he came from.

At the same time, Thomas Lomax Hunter, Times-Dispatch columnist, offered the following comment: "It is quite conceivable that a man may stay for a long time in Virginia and not come into intimate contact with people of culture and refinement. There are more ways than one of looking at this matter. For factors cannot be controlled, they are my part I should hate to publish not to be disregarded any more than the fact that I had been for a long time in any corner of the United States and that I had never met anybody to control it.

Concerning the question of what and but who married a Virginian and lived in Richmond for two decades, spoke on Virginia recently before the Twickenham Literary Society. The Thames Valley Times quoted her as saying that in the Old Dominion "the natives have no mentality."

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# NOW SAYS THAT WHITES AROUSED BY SHAW STATEMENT OF MENTAL TRAITS BLACKS' SUPERIORITY NOT JUST RACIAL Environment More Important Than One's Color

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Thomas Russell Garth, white, professor of experimental psychology at the University of Denver, has reversed the

Richmond Times-Dispatch. "The opinion held in his early investigation can hear decent English and associate with people who aren't ignorant. As for 'Southern hospitality' and 'Southern gentlemen,' they must have gone north. I haven't met either since I have been down here."

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that individual difference intelligence within the same race is more important and more obvious than intelligence differences between the races. The study reveal that socio-economic status is significant in evaluating the intelligence of any group.

### Heretofore Important

"Most of the testing results thus far reported have been decidedly unfair

CAPETOWN, South Africa, Apr. 21.—(CNS)—When George Bernard Shaw, English playwright, told the investigations have been white newspapermen that African natives or white women. Good testing were "far more intelligent" than requires the proper rapport between their white neighbors in South Africa just before he sailed for home, he aroused the ire of the mental tester to get a good social adjustment with the colored child. Social Prominent white citizens, irritated by the sharp and witty comparison drawn by the Englishman "Racial investigations of intelligence declared that Shaw would have should compare groups of children in been shot, had he remained in both races who have had identical South Africa after the statement social and educational influences."

### Race Child Is Bright

INTELLIGENCE TEST IS 104 IN N. Y.—VARY WITHIN THE RACE—NO PROOF OF RACIAL DIFFERENCE—FORMER TESTS UNFAIR

New York, N. Y., Aug. 8, 1932—Intelligence tests of colored children in New York, made in a study soon to be published, showed an average intelligence quotient of 104. Dr. Albert Sidney Beckham, clinical psychologist of the Institute for Juvenile Research disclosed today. The average intelligence quotient for everybody is 100. All the children examined were between the ages of 12 and 16.

Dr. Beckham holds that no indisputable evidence has been found for racial differences in intelligence, but that the new tests show evidence of the advantages of nurture, education and favoring environment in improving intelligence.

Previous intelligence tests of colored children have been unfair, he holds in an article appearing in the current issue of Opportunity.

"In a study that is soon to be published," he writes, "concerning the intelligence of colored children from the favorable environments of New York City, Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D. C., the following I. Q.'s were obtained. All these children were between the ages of 12 and 16:

In N. Y., Baltimore, D. of C.  
The New York mean was 104, with a range from 75 to 122. The total number of children measured in New York was 100. In Washington the mean was 97, with a range from 50 to 139. The number of children measured in the District of Columbia was 753.

"In Baltimore 147 children were measured with a mean I. Q. of 95 and Professor Garth is author of a book on "Race Psychology," published by McGraw-Hill Company, "This study indicates the advantage of nurture. It proves conclusively, at least as far as this group is concerned,